cotton year. These measures have improved the availability of cotton and also led to decline in the cotton prices.

Release of Export quota of Cotton Bales

3886. SHRI RAJANI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have been urged to release an export quota of bales of cotton; and

(b) if so, what action Government propose to take in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During the current cotton year 1987-88 exports of staple cotton have not been permitted in view of lower production and uptrend in cotton prices. The question of export of cotton during the 1988-89 cotton year will depend on the crop size, estimated domestic requirement and prices in the domestic and international markets in that year.

Counter Trade with Indonesia

3887. SHRI KAPIL VERMA :

SHRIMATI VEENA BERMA :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether India and Indonesia have agreed to explore possibilities of entering into counter-trade or such other mutually beneficial arrangement for import of bulk items which could be linked to exports to Indonesia; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI DINESH SINGH): (a) and (b) In the last senior officials level meeting on trade and economic relations between India and Indonesia held in New Delhi from 3—5 August, 1988, it was noted that in view of the possibilities of India purchasing bulk items like Palm oil, rubber, tin etc., the State Trading Corporation of India and organisations to be identified by the Indonesian side, would meet and explore the possibilities of entering into counter trade or other mutually beneficial arrangements for import of these bulk items linked to exports to Indonesia.

Arrangement made by STC for Packing Imported Palmolin

3888. SHRI M. A. BABY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state .

(a) what arrangement State Trading Corporation (STC) are having for packing of imported 'Palmolin' edible oil with private parties along with their names and addresses, quantity offered to be packed, monthly, annually, terms, packing and other charges, transportation local|for destination, period of agreement and since when; and

(b) whether it is a fact that Chairman of the STC has recently taken a policy decision to encourage for setting up of new ancillary small scale units Zonewise|Regionwise|Statewise for packing of Palmolin edible oil to make easy availability at more reasonable price particularly to weaker sections of the society even to remote places and the new 20-Point Economic Programme of the Prime Minister to generate more employment and to end poverty speedily, regionwise besides packing assignment of STC should not remain the monopoly of influensive Packing unit; if so, what are the complete details of the proposal ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI DINESH SINGH) : (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Dispute between the General Insurance Corporation and Gujarat State Co-operative Bank over crop Insurance

3889. SHRI DIPEN GHOSH :

SHRI MOHAMMED AMIN :